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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,688	09/17/2003	Koichi Nagoshi	P23994	3984
7055 7590 09/24/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER MUHEBBULLAH, SAJEDA	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,688

Applicant(s)

NAGOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Sajeda Muhebbullah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE/Amendment filed 7/10/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 24, 28, 29 and 36-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 24, 28, 29 and 36-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to RCE/Amendment filed 07/10/2007.
2. Claims 14, 24, 28-29, and 36-54 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13, 15-23, 25-27 and 30-35 have been cancelled. Claims 14 and 24 have been amended and claims 36-54 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 14, 24, 28-29, and 36-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kitada et al. ("Kitada", US 2004/0024811).

As per claim 14, Kitada teaches a multifunction apparatus having at least a copying function (para.0023, lines 2-3), the multifunction apparatus being connected to a discrete server via a network (para.0022, lines 7-9), the discrete server storing information regarding menus (para.0043,0051, lines 12-27; para.0057) of a plurality of multifunction apparatuses corresponding to a plurality of user IDs (para.0030-0032, 0039), each the menus being displayable on the multifunction apparatus (para.0039), the multifunction apparatus comprising:

a display configured to display a menu, the menu representing functions of the multifunction apparatus (para.0027); and

a panel configured to input user ID (para.0035, lines 20-27); and

a controller that, when the user ID is input via the panel, being configured to communicate with the discrete server, to receive the information regarding the menu corresponding to the input user ID from the information regarding the menu of the plurality of multifunction apparatuses stored in the discrete server, and to display, on the display, the menu corresponding to the input user ID based on the information regarding the menu received from the discrete server, wherein another menu can be displayed on the display based on input of another user ID (para.0051, lines 12-27; para.0030-0032, 0039).

As per claim 24, Kitada teaches a server connected to a plurality of multifunction apparatuses via a network, the server being discrete from each of the multifunction apparatuses (Fig.1; para.0022, lines 7-9), the server comprising:

a memory configured to store information (para.0051, lines 12-27; para.0057) regarding menus of a plurality of the multifunction apparatuses (para.0032);

a communicator configured to communicate with the plurality of the multifunction apparatus via the network (para.0034, lines 14-19); and

a controller configured to receive, from one of the plurality of the multifunction apparatuses, a signal requesting the information regarding a menu together with a user ID, to search the memory for the information regarding the menu corresponding to the user ID, from the information regarding the menus of the plurality of the multifunction apparatuses, and to transmit, to the one of the plurality of the multifunction apparatuses, the information regarding the menu corresponding to the user ID (para.0051, lines 12-27; para.0030-0032, 0039).

As per claim 28, Kitada teaches a multifunction apparatus having at least a scanning function and not having a facsimile transmission function (para.0022, lines 7-9), the

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multifunction apparatus connected with a server via a network, the server storing information regarding a menu (para.0051, lines 12-27; para.0057), the menu being displayable on the multifunction apparatus, the multifunction apparatus comprising:

- a scanner configured to scan a document (para.0022, lines 4-7);

- a panel configured to display a menu representing functions of the multifunction apparatus (Figs.3-6); and

- a controller configured to communicate with the server to receive the information regarding the menu from the server, and to display a menu on the panel based on the information regarding the menu received from the server (para.0051, lines 12-27),

- the controller being configured to send, to the server, based on the information regarding the menu, scanned image data together with predetermined information indicating another multifunction apparatus having a facsimile transmission function and being capable of transmitting the image data to a recipient, when a predetermined menu indicating a facsimile transmission function is displayed on the panel (para.0026; para.0047-0048), of the multifunction apparatus, the information regarding the menu including the predetermined menu indicating the facsimile transmission function, and when a facsimile transmission is selected on the menu (Fig.5; para.0047-0048; para.0026),

- whereby the server transmits, to the another multifunction apparatus, the image data scanned by the multifunction apparatus, based on the predetermined information, the server being distinct from the multifunction apparatus and from the another multifunction apparatus (para.0026; Fig.1).

As per claim 29, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the controller utilizes a scanning function to scan a document, when the facsimile transmission is selected on the menu (para.0026; para.0047-0048).

As per claim 36, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus wherein the information regarding the menu is utilized for the multifunction apparatus and also for another multifunction apparatus (Fig.1, MFDs 10-30; para.0033).

As per claim 37, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the information regarding the menu is utilized only for the multifunction apparatus (para.0022, lines 7-8).

As per claim 38, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the information regarding the menu is utilized for at least one of a plurality of functions of the multifunction apparatus (para.0027).

As per claim 39, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein at least one of a plurality of functions of the multifunction apparatus is an operation customized for a particular user (para.0033; para.0039).

As per claim 40, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the information regarding the menu contains a menu item name, the menu item name indicating a job that the multifunction apparatus performs (Fig.4; para.0044).

As per claim 41, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the information regarding the menu contains a menu item name, a job-ID and a job parameter (para.0039; para.0044).

As per claim 42, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the multifunction apparatus additionally has at least one of a scanning, printing, and a facsimile transmission

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function and the job ID includes at least one of copying, printing, scanning and fax transmission (para.0039; para.0044).

As per claim 43, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the job parameter includes at least one of an image type and paper size for copying (para.0023; para.0039, lines 10-11).

As per claim 44, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the job parameter includes at least one of an image type, paper size and resolution for printing (para.0023; para.0039, lines 10-11).

As per claim 45, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the job parameter includes at least one of an image type, paper size, resolution and file format for scanning (para.0039, lines 10-11).

As per claim 46, Kitada teaches the multifunction apparatus, wherein the job parameter includes at least one of an image type, paper size, resolution and file format for facsimile transmission (para.0023; para.0039, lines 10-11).

As per claim 47, Kitada teaches the server, wherein the information regarding the menu contains information regarding a maximum number of characters that can be displayed on the display of the multifunction apparatus (para.0033, lines 5-9).

As per claim 48, Kitada teaches the server, wherein the information regarding the menu contains information regarding capabilities of the multifunction apparatus (para.0033, lines 5-9).

Claim 49 is similar in scope to claim 24, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 50 is similar in scope to claim 14, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

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Claims 51-54 are similar in scope to claims 36-39 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/20/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

a) Kitada fails to disclose a discrete server that stores information regarding menus of a plurality of multifunction apparatuses corresponding to a plurality of user IDs.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Per a) Kitada teaches the server to store profiles corresponding to specific user IDs which specify information regarding the menu to be displayed for the specific user ID (para.0030-0032, 0039).

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Communications

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sajeda Muhebbullah whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4065**. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday/Thursday and alt. Mondays from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The central fax number for the organization where correspondence for this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sajeda Muhebbullah

Patent Examiner

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Kristine Kincaid

KRISTINE KINCAID

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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